their efficiency both in terms of fuel and electricity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drop-out rate of boys and girls

1906. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the problem of drop-out boys and girls in schools at primary, middle and secondary/higher secondary levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the number of drop-out boys and girls in each category (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995;

(d) the details of the Centrally sponsored programmes and the result-oriented and time-bound achievements made (State-wise) during each of the last three years and so far in 1995; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred in the implementation of each centrally sponsored scheme (State-wise) during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) The Government have examined the problem of drop outs from time to time. The State-wise details of drop outs for classes I—V, I—VIII and I—X are published in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(d) to (e) The details of the centrally sponsored schemes and the achievements are also available in the Annual Reports. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education launched in August this year is intended to improve attendance at the primary level. The budget outlay for 1995-96 is Rs. 611.79 crores.

Underutilization of steel market

1907. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's steel market is under utilised at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some effective measures in this context to give big push in steel sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The level of steel consumption is related to the stage of economic and industrial development of a country. India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent consumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

(c) to (e) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government has also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. These include:

(i) Removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector;

(ii) Exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;

(iii) Inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industry for purposes of foreign investment;

(iv) De-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(v) Reduction of duty on import of capital goods; and

(vi) Liberalisation of import and export policy.

With higher economic growth and increased production of steel, steel consumption is also expected to increase.

Removal of gender discrimination from society

1908. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any comprehensive scheme for removing gender discrimination from Indian Society by way of female literacy, promoting mother and child health programme and the like;

(b) if so, the details of such a scheme, phase-wise; and

(c) the provision made or being made therefor under the 8th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA): (a) and (b) Government have been implementing a number of schemes of affirmative action with the objective of raising the social, econonic, educational, health and nutritional status of women and attempting to increase awareness of this phenomenon.

(c) The Planning Commission has allocated a sum of Rs. 225.85 crores during the 8th Plan for women specific programmes of the Department of Women & Child Development.

आयल-पाम की खेती को लोकप्रिय बनाना

1909. **श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड देश के विभिन्न भागों में आयल-पाम की खेती को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक राज्य में, विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश में इस संबंध में किए गए कार्य का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या देश को निकट भविष्य में खाद्य तेल के क्षेत्र मे आत्म-निर्भरता प्राप्त हो जाएगी?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद अयूब खान): (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड को आयल-पाम विकास कार्यक्रम शुरु करने के लिए केवल कर्नाटक राज्य मे ही क्षेत्र आवंटित किया गया। एन डी डी बी ने कर्नाटक में माण्डया के नजदीक एक नर्सरी शुरु की थी और आयल-पाम पौध रोपण के अंतर्गत 12 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र को कवर किया था। तथापि, हाल ही में कर्नाटक सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि एन डी डी बी कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने का इच्छुक नहीं है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में आयल पाम विकास के लिए कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं है क्योंकि आयल पाम की खेती के लिए कृषि जलवायु की परिस्थितियां उपयुक्त नहीं है।

(ग) योजना आयोग ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंत तक तिलहनों तथा खाद्य तेलों की मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए 23 मिलियन मीटरी टन तिलहन का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है और यह संभावना है कि हम 1996-97 तक 23 मिलियन मीटरी टन के उत्पादन लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर लेंगे। इस प्रकार हम तिलहनों तथा खाद्य तेलों में आत्म-निर्भरता प्राप्त करने की राह में हैं।